

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 110082
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 PA-01 INR-10
INRE-00 CIAE-00 /037 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:G SHERMAN:LB
APPROVED BY NEA:H H SAUNDERS
S/PRESS (INFO)
WHITE HOUSE:JPOWELL
S/S-O:SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PGOV, IS, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW ON MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

REFERENCES: (A) CAIRO 11902, (B) CAIRO 11906

1. BY NOW YOU WILL HAVE RECEIVED TEXT OF INTERVIEW WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER APPEARING IN THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES OF
APRIL 30, NOT NEW YORK TIMES AS STATED IN EGYPTIAN PRESS
ACCOUNTS. PRESIDENT GAVE INTERVIEW TO TRUDY FELDMAN,
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CORRESPONDENT ACCREDITED TO WHITE HOUSE FOR SEVERAL JEWISH
AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF ISRAEL. SHE IS NOT RPT NOT ASSOCIATED
WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES, THOUGH HER STORY EVIDENTLY WAS
BOUGHT BY THE NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATION SERVICE SOLD OTHER
NEWSPAPERS. ALTHOUGH NO TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW EXISTS,
ON BASIS OF PRINTED INTERVIEW WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPART-
MENT SPOKESMEN ARE MAKING POINT TO ALL QUERIES THAT
PRESIDENT DID NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE ANY CHANGE OR DEPARTURE
IN POLICY IN THE INTERVIEW. SPECIFICALLY REGARDING THE

THREE POINTS SINGLED OUT IN EGYPTIAN PRESS PER REFTTEL A,
WE ARE GIVING FOLLOWING ANSWERS WHICH YOU SHOULD ALSO USE
TO ANSWER QUERIES:

A. BEGIN PLAN AS "BASIS" FOR WEST BANK-GAZA SETTLEMENT.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS CONSISTENTLY SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S PROPOSALS LAST DECEMBER REPRESENT A GOOD FIRST STEP AND A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM SAYING IT WILL BE THE BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT. IN THIS SENSE, THE BEGIN PROPOSALS WERE CONSTRUCTIVE. THIS POSITION WAS MOST RECENTLY STATED IN AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S SPEECH IN ATLANTA APRIL 5, AND IT REMAINS THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT TO FORECAST WHAT WILL COME OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THE BEGIN PLAN IS ONLY ONE INGREDIENT. ARAB VIEWS WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE NEGOTIATION. ONLY AFTER THE TWO SIDES ARE ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATION WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO JUDGE WHAT MAY BE THE BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT.

B. UNITED STATES OPPOSITION TO AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE. THIS IS NOT A NEW POSITION. THE PRESIDENT, VICE
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PRESIDENT, SECRETARY HAVE REPEATEDLY SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES IS IN FAVOR OF A HOMELAND OR ENTITY FOR THE PALESTINIANS, PREFERABLY LINKED TO JORDAN. THAT WAS FIRST STATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ON MARCH 16, 1977, AND REPEATED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT IN SAN FRANCISCO THE FOLLOWING JUNE 17. PRESIDENT CARTER STATED IN HIS SPEECH TO THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS ON NOVEMBER 2, 1977, THAT THE UNITED STATES OPPOSES AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE, AND THIS WAS ELABORATED ON IN THE ATHERTON SPEECH IN ATLANTA. THAT REMAINS THE POSITION.

C. PERMANENT SETTLEMENT WILL NOT CALL FOR COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. THE PRESIDENT FIRST STATED ON MARCH 9, 1977, THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND FINAL BOUNDARIES, TOGETHER WITH SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS, WOULD HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE PARTIES. HE SAID THEN HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE "MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THE 1967 BOUNDARIES." THAT REMAINS THE POSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION, AND IS ESSENTIALLY WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID IN THE FELDMAN INTERVIEW.

2. FOR CAIRO: ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS FOR YOUR PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH KAMEL COMING SEPTEL.

3. REGARDING THE PROCEDURE OF THE ADMINISTRATION IN SUBMITTING THE AIRCRAFT PROPOSALS TO CONGRESS, SECRETARY

VANCE TODAY (SUNDAY) ON THE TELEVISION PROGRAM "FACE THE NATION" ONCE AGAIN MADE CLEAR THAT THE SALES REQUESTS FOR ISRAEL, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE ALL AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE OVERALL AMERICAN POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. UNOFFICIAL TEXT OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THIS SUBJECT FOLLOW, WHICH YOU CAN USE ALSO IN ANSWERING QUERIES.

4. BEGIN QUOTE: Q. HAS THE ADMINISTRATION DONE AN ABOUT-FACE ON TREATING THE AIRCRAFT REQUESTS FOR ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA, AND EGYPT AS A PACKAGE?

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A. WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE VERY CLEAR IS EACH ONE OF THESE MUST BE PUT BEFORE THE CONGRESS SEPARATELY, CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BY THE CONGRESS. THAT IS THE LAW AND THAT IS THE WAY IT WILL BE DONE. HOWEVER, IN EXERCISING HIS RESPONSIBILITY, THE PRESIDENT MUST LOOK AT THE ACTION TAKEN ON EACH ONE OF THESE ACTIONS BEFORE HE MAKES HIS ULTIMATE DETERMINATION.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, IN YOUR FIRST ANSWER YOU SORT OF EXPLAINED WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID. BUT I'M NOT SURE I'VE GOTTEN THE WHOLE THING YET, BECAUSE ANOTHER PART OF THE PRESIDENT'S QUOTATION FROM THE NEWS CONFERENCE WAS, "IF CONGRESS SHOULD ACCEPT A PORTION AND REJECT ANOTHER, THEN MY INTENT IS TO WITHDRAW THE SALES PACKAGE ALTOGETHER." IS THAT STILL OPERATIVE?

A. YES, HE'S GOT TO EXERCISE HIS JUDGMENT AS HE SEES THE ACTION TAKEN ON EACH ONE OF THE ELEMENTS OF THIS PACKAGE. THESE SEPARATE ELEMENTS ARE REINFORCING. LET ME SAY A WORD BY WAY OF BACKGROUND ON THIS. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY FILL THE NEEDS, THE REQUIREMENTS OF EACH ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES. YET, AT THE SAME TIME, THEY GIVE CONFIDENCE TO EACH ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES THAT WE ARE GOING TO FULFILL OUR COMMITMENTS TO THEM AND FILL THEIR NEEDS WHEN THEY HAVE LEGITIMATE NEEDS. NOW THIS IS IMPORTANT TO THE PEACE PROCESS. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO THE PEACE PROCESS? IT'S IMPORTANT NOT ONLY THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE THE ELEMENTS WHICH THEY NEED FOR THEIR DEFENSE. IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES. IF WE ARE GOING TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN THE PEACE PROCESS,
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THEN WE MUST HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF EACH OF THE PARTIES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, TO ITS SECURITY.

THIS IS AN UNSHAKEABLE COMMITMENT. INsofar AS EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE CONCERNED, EACH OF THEM HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PEACE PROCESS. THE EGYPTIANS ARE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE. THE SAUDI ARABIANS ARE A MODERATE FORCE, A MODERATE FORCE FOR PEACE. AND THEREFORE, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT ALL OF THEM HAVE CONFIDENCE IN US, THAT WE WILL HELP THEM IN WHAT THEY NEED AND IN THEIR WELL-BEING.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, THIS ARMS SALES ISSUE HAS TAKEN ON IMPLICATIONS CLEARLY BEYOND THE NORMAL FACTOR OF WEAPONRY. CAN YOU TELL US, SIR, WHAT IN YOUR JUDGMENT WOULD BE THE DAMAGE DONE TO OVERALL U.S. POLICY IF SOME MEASURE OF WEAPONRY IS NOT PROVIDED FOR SAUDI ARABIA?

A. SAUDI ARABIA, AS I INDICATED, IS A FORCE FOR MODERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS ALSO AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT COUNTRY IN TERMS OF THE PART WHICH IT IS PLAYING IN THE ECONOMY OF THE WORLD. OBVIOUSLY, IT IS ONE OF THE LEADERS IN OPEC. AND THUS IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT COUNTRY FROM MANY, MANY STANDPOINTS. SAUDI ARABIA IS ALSO A LONG AND CLOSE FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT, STARTING IN 1975, AND REAFFIRMED IN THIS ADMINISTRATION, TO MEET THEIR NEEDS IN THIS REGARD. WE HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THEIR REQUEST FOR SIXTY F-15 AIRCRAFT. WE HAVE AFTER THAT EXAMINATION, CONCLUDED THAT THAT IS A VALID NEED TO MEET THEIR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. IF WE WERE NOW NOT TO GO FORWARD WITH THAT, I THINK WE WOULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE OUR RELATIONSHIP, NOT ONLY WITH SAUDI ARABIA, BUT WITH THE MODERATE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AS WELL.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, I JUST WANTED NOT TO MISUNDERSTAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SOMETHING. EARLIER ON, YOU USED THE TERM AGAIN "MUTUALLY REINFORCING," WHICH WAS THE LANGUAGE THAT YOU USED AT THE VERY BEGINNING AT THAT NEWS CONFERENCE WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN. AND THEN YOU FOLLOWED THAT NEWS CONFERENCE STATEMENT UP BY TALKING ABOUT A PACKAGE. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOW STRESSING THE INDIVIDUAL NATURE OF THE CONSIDERATION OF CONGRESS, BUT IT IS IN YOUR MIND, THE ADMINISTRATION, STILL A PACKAGE?

A. IN THE VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THEY ARE -- EACH OF THEM -- SELF-REINFORCING AND WITHOUT EACH ONE OF THEM BEING ACTED UPON POSITIVELY, I THINK IT'S GOING TO PRODUCE A RESULT WHICH WILL BE DAMAGING TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND

DAMAGING TO OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH ONE OF THESE COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT THE

CONGRESS SHOULD ACT POSITIVELY ON EACH ONE OF THOSE.

Q. TO WHAT EXTENT, SIR, HAS ADMINISTRATION POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST BECOME HOSTAGE? YOU TALKED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA AND ITS IMPORTANCE -- BECOME HOSTAGE REALLY TO OIL? SAUDI ARABIA BEING A TERRIFIC AND PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER OF OIL.

A. WELL, OBVIOUSLY, OIL IS A VERY IMPORTANT COMMODITY NOT ONLY FOR THE UNITED STATES, BUT FOR THE WORLD, FOR WESTERN EUROPE, FOR OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES ALL OVER THE WORLD. FOR THE POOR NATIONS AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. AND NO ONE SHOULD TRY AND BELITTLE THE IMPORTANCE OF OIL. BUT THAT'S NOT THE SOLE FACTOR. THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS INVOLVED. THE BIG FACTOR HERE THAT I SEE IS REINFORCING THE PEACE PROCESS. AND I STRESS THAT SAUDI ARABIA AS A MODERATE, AS A SUPPORTER OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SEARCH FOR PEACE THAT IS GOING ON NOW BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, IS A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT; AND THEREFORE, THAT MUST NOT BE DISCOUNTED -- IT MUST BE UNDERLINED.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, FEELING THE WAY YOU DO ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARMS SALES TO EGYPT AND TO SAUDI ARABIA AS MUTUALLY REINFORCING, AND SO FORTH, WOULD YOU RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT TO WITHDRAW THE PACKAGE IN WHATEVER FORM -- THIS IS THE QUESTION THAT I'M TRYING TO GET AT -- IF ONE OR THE OTHER, EGYPT OR SAUDI ARABIA IS TURNED DOWN BY CONGRESS, WOULD YOU RECOMMEND TO THE PRESIDENT TO WITHDRAW?

A. I THINK I'VE MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT I CONSIDER EACH ONE OF THESE ELEMENTS TO BE ESSENTIAL.
END QUOTE.
CHRISTOPHER

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INFO RUQMKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 0000
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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 110082 SENT ACTION CAIRO INFO TEL AVIV,
DAMASCUS, BEIRUT, AMMAN, JIDDA, JERUSALEM, RIYADH 30 APR 78

REF: KUWAIT 2604

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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4. BEGIN QUOTE: Q. HAS THE ADMINISTRATION DONE AN ABOUT-FACE ON TREATING THE AIRCRAFT REQUESTS FOR ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA, AND EGYPT AS A PACKAGE?

A. WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE VERY CLEAR IS EACH ONE OF THESE MUST BE PUT BEFORE THE CONGRESS SEPARATELY, CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BY THE CONGRESS. THAT IS THE LAW AND THAT IS THE WAY IT WILL BE DONE. HOWEVER, IN EXERCISING HIS RESPONSIBILITY, THE PRESIDENT MUST LOOK AT THE ACTION TAKEN ON EACH ONE OF THESE ACTIONS BEFORE HE MAKES HIS ULTIMATE DETERMINATION.

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THEN WE MUST HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF EACH OF THE PARTIES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL, TO ITS SECURITY. THIS IS AN UNSHAKEABLE COMMITMENT. INSOFAR AS EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE CONCERNED, EACH OF THEM HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE PEACE PROCESS. THE EGYPTIANS ARE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE. THE SAUDI ARABIANS ARE A MODERATE FORCE, A MODERATE FORCE FOR PEACE. AND THEREFORE, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT ALL OF THEM HAVE CONFIDENCE IN US, THAT WE WILL HELP THEM IN WHAT THEY NEED AND IN THEIR WELL-BEING.

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AS WELL.

Q. MR. SECRETARY, I JUST WANTED NOT TO MISUNDERSTAND SOMETHING. EARLIER ON, YOU USED THE TERM AGAIN "MUTUALLY REINFORCING," WHICH WAS THE LANGUAGE THAT YOU USED AT THE VERY BEGINNING AT THAT NEWS CONFERENCE WITH DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN. AND THEN YOU FOLLOWED THAT NEWS CONFERENCE STATEMENT UP BY TALKING ABOUT A PACKAGE. I KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOW STRESSING THE INDIVIDUAL NATURE OF THE CONSIDERATION OF CONGRESS, BUT IT IS IN YOUR MIND, THE ADMINISTRATION, STILL A PACKAGE?

A. IN THE VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THEY ARE -- EACH OF THEM -- SELF-REINFORCING AND WITHOUT EACH ONE OF THEM BEING ACTED UPON POSITIVELY, I THINK IT'S GOING TO PRODUCE A RESULT WHICH WILL BE DAMAGING TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND

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THERE ARE OTHER FACTORS INVOLVED. THE BIG FACTOR HERE THAT I SEE IS REINFORCING THE PEACE PROCESS. AND I STRESS THAT SAUDI ARABIA AS A MODERATE, AS A SUPPORTER OF THE SEARCH FOR PEACE THAT IS GOING ON NOW BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT, IS A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT; AND THEREFORE, THAT MUST NOT BE DISCOUNTED -- IT MUST BE UNDERLINED.

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END QUOTE.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PRESS CONFERENCES, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: GS DG ALTERED
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780185-0213
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804109/baaaeynl.tel
Line Count: 523
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b34bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 10
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2829228
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW ON MIDEAST SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PGOV, IS, US, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY), (FELDMAN, TRUDY)
To: CAIRO NIACT INFO TEL AVIV MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b34bda6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014